

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 25 are pending in this application of which claims 1 and 19 are the independent claims. Claims 25 to 28 were previously withdrawn. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner has indicated that claims 19 to 25 were allowed. The Examiner has further indicated that claims 2 to 7, 9 to 13 and 16 to 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Applicants submit that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants : Kunda et al.
Serial No. : 09/615,292
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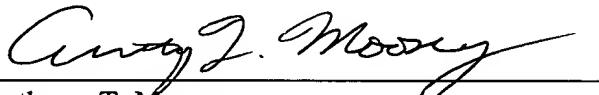
Attorney's Docket No.: 1296-US

All correspondence should be directed to the address below. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at (617) 422-3532.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0515 referencing Attorney Docket 1296-US.

Respectfully submitted,

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